

## FIRST QUARTER 1999 COVERED EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES

The average quarterly employment for Louisiana during first quarter 1999 decreased by 23,946, or 1.3%. This decrease can be attributed to a normal seasonal decrease in agriculture, and a decrease in mining due to declines in the oil and gas industry. Employment increased by 16,266, or .9%, from the same period a year ago. The following table shows the average quarterly employment data for first quarter 1999, fourth quarter 1998 and first quarter 1998 and the percent change for the major industry divisions.

	QTR 991	QTR 984	QTR 981	% CHG FROM PREV QTR	% CHG FROM PREV YR
TOTAL	1,827,581	1,851,527	1,811,315	-1.3%	0.9%
Agriculture Forestry & Fishing	15,511	17,834	13,954	-13.0%	11.2%
Mining	48,709	53,965	57,911	-9.7%	-15.9%
Contract Construction	138,103	137,280	130,354	0.6%	5.9%
Manufacturing	187,335	190,004	189,434	-1.4%	-1.1%
Transp. and Public Utilities	128,806	131,973	127,847	-2.4%	0.8%
Wholesale Trade	96,374	98,182	95,739	-1.8%	0.7%
Retail Trade	343,573	350,256	337,646	-1.9%	1.8%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	83,110	85,468	84,084	-2.8%	-1.2%
Services	688,430	689,011	678,641	-0.1%	1.4%
Public Administration	97,630	97,554	95,693	0.1%	2.0%

The number of reporting units for first quarter 1999 increased by 875 units, or 0.8%, from the previous quarter and increased 3,387 +units, or 3.1%, from a year ago. The following table shows the average number of units for first quarter 1999, fourth quarter 1998 and first quarter 1998 and the percent change for the major industry divisions.

	QTR 991	QTR 984	QTR 981	% CHG FROM PREV QTR	% CHG FROM PREV YR
TOTAL	114,126	113,251	110,739	0.8%	3.1%
Agriculture Forestry & Fishing	2,308	2,268	2,191	1.8%	5.3%
Mining	1,949	1,931	1,935	0.9%	0.7%
Contract Construction	10,101	9,932	9,407	1.7%	7.4%
Manufacturing	4,808	4,735	4,630	1.5%	3.8%
Transp. and Public Utilities	7,098	7,063	6,849	0.5%	3.6%
Wholesale Trade	9,689	9,681	9,555	0.1%	1.4%
Retail Trade	23,210	23,143	23,014	0.3%	0.9%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	10,834	10,730	10,380	1.0%	4.4%
Services	40,626	40,284	39,314	0.8%	3.3%
Public Administration	3,503	3,484	3,464	0.5%	1.1%

Total wages for first quarter 1999 decreased by 10.8% from fourth quarter 1998 and increased 1.1% from the same period a year ago. The average weekly wage for first quarter 1999 was \$503.80, a decrease of 9.6% from the fourth quarter 1998 figure of \$557.20. Page three shows the first quarter 1999 average weekly wage data for all parishes by State Planning District.